

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS), for granting me the time.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and privilege to rise today in support of Senate 2640, the Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building Designation Act. The concept of this legislation, while generated and originated in our office on the House side, was the genesis for the bill introduced by my good friend, Senator JOHN ENSIGN, as companion legislation to my bill, H.R. 4442. All five members of Nevada's congressional delegation fully support the memorial that these bills would realize.

This bill honors Nevada's military personnel who have made that ultimate sacrifice during the global war on terror and the liberation of Iraq. Nevada's families have lost precious loved ones during these conflicts, and many members of Nevada's communities have requested help in providing some form of recognition for these noble men and women.

This bill helps provide such recognition by establishing the Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office building in Reno, Nevada, a consecration of ground forever preserving the memories of these valiant individuals.

The name for this special memorial post office originates through a contest in a high school in the North Valleys area of Reno, Nevada, and the name Guardians of Freedom Post Office was selected from a name generated by the Junior ROTC of North Valleys High School in Reno. Those students created a name which best embodies the spirit of our recently fallen heroes.

I congratulate these young Nevadans on their achievement and thank them for their participation in this special honor that will forever recognize these fallen patriots.

To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, no other post office in the United States honors the memories of all of those of a community who have fallen in defense of our Nation's liberty. At the Guardians of Freedom Post Office, a plaque will be placed at this site bearing the names of the Nevadans who have made the ultimate sacrifice in fighting terrorism and who have died defending America's liberties.

It is my hope that the names permanently etched into this plaque will be an enduring reminder to future generations that freedom is never free, and those who defend liberty will never be forgotten.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2640.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MIKE MANSFIELD POST OFFICE

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2214) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3150 Great Northern Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the "Mike Mansfield Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2214

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. MIKE MANSFIELD POST OFFICE, MISSOULA, MONTANA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3150 Great Northern Avenue in Missoula, Montana, shall be known and designated as the "Mike Mansfield Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Mike Mansfield Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2214.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this legislation that will name the postal facility in Missoula, Montana, after one of Montana's favorite sons, Senator Mike Mansfield. To put it forthrightly, Mike Mansfield was one of America's finest leaders. He was the longest-serving Senate Majority Leader ever, presiding over the other body during a critical and tumultuous time in our Nation's history from 1961 to 1977.

Before entering government service, Senator Mansfield bravely served stints in three different branches of the military. Perhaps more remarkably, he began his military service as a seaman at just the age of 14 in the United States Navy during World War I. Later, he joined the Army from 1919 to 1920, and the Marine Corps from 1920 to 1922.

Senator Mansfield became a history and political science professor at Montana State University for a decade prior to being elected to the first of his

five terms in the House of Representatives in 1942. Then, in 1952 he won election to the Senate, where he would become a national household name, and the body where he would spend the next 24 years. Senator Mansfield rapidly became majority whip, the number two post in the Senate in 1957. When Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson left the Senate to become Vice President, Senator Mansfield was the natural choice to replace him. He became majority leader and held the post for an extraordinary 16 years, again from 1961 to 1977.

After retiring from the Senate, President Jimmy Carter appointed him Ambassador to Japan, an office he held through 1988. The distinguished Senator died of congestive heart failure here in Washington at the age of 98 on October 5, 2001. His body was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation benefited monumentally from Senator Mike Mansfield's legendary, yet humble, leadership. Therefore, I urge all Members to support this legislation that honors him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of S. 2214, legislation designating the postal facility in Missoula, Montana, after the late Senator Mike Mansfield. This measure, which was sponsored by Senator CONRAD BURNS, passed the Senate unanimously on June 9, 2004.

Michael Joseph Mansfield was born in 1903 in New York City. In 1906 he moved with his family to Montana where he attended public schools. At the age of 14 he entered the United States Navy serving for 4 years, the U.S. Army for 1 year, and the U.S. Marine Corps for 2 years. After serving in the military, he returned to Montana to further his education, graduating from college and receiving a master's degree.

From 1943 to 1953, Mike Mansfield, a Democrat, served in the United States House of Representatives, representing Montana's First Congressional District. In 1952, Representative Mansfield was elected to the U.S. Senate where he served until 1977. During his Senate career, Senator Mansfield served as democratic whip, majority leader, Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration, and Select Committee on Secret and Confidential Documents.

A man of impeccable integrity, Senator Mansfield was instrumental in securing passage of the Civil Rights Bill in 1964. Although an early supporter of the Vietnam War, he later was a leading voice to end that war. After his service in the Senate, he was appointed Ambassador to Japan under Presidents Carter and Reagan.

Prior to his death in 2001, he served as senior advisor to Goldman Sachs in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the memory and legacy of the late Senator Mike Mansfield, and I urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 2214, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2214.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LIEUTENANT JOHN F. FINN POST OFFICE

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2693) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1475 Western Avenue, Suite 45, in Albany, New York, as the "Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2693

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. LIEUTENANT JOHN F. FINN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1475 Western Avenue, Suite 45, in Albany, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2693.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation designates the postal facility located at 1475 Western Avenue in Albany, New York, as the Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office.

Lieutenant John Finn, a 12-year veteran of the Albany Police Department, was shot three times while chasing a robbery suspect on December 23, 2003.

Amazingly, he endured in spite of his wounds for nearly 7 weeks, before sadly passing away on February 12 of this year.

Last month, on October 6, the House passed H.R. 5053, an identical bill that memorialized Lieutenant Finn's service and bravery to his grateful Nation. With passage of the Senate bill here today, the House can ensure that the Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office will soon be established in Albany.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) for advancing H.R. 5053, and Senator SCHUMER of New York for shepherding today's bill, S. 2693, through both Chambers.

Lieutenant Finn and his family greatly deserve this honor, and I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY), the sponsor of this legislation in the House of Representatives.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to thank Senator SCHUMER, Senator CLINTON, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY), and all the members of the New York delegation, Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings, and all of those who worked so hard to bring this legislation to the floor today.

John Finn was a police officer who was killed in the line of duty. He literally laid down his life for his friends. Mr. Speaker, we consider this bill today in memory of all of his service through the years to the Albany Police Department, and also for his wife, Maura, his children, Clara and Molly, and all of his fellow police officers and friends.

I ask all of my colleagues to approve this legislation as a small tribute to a true American hero, Lieutenant Finn.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time to comment on S. 2693, which designates the United States Post Office at 1475 Western Avenue in Albany, New York as the "Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office."

This bill was introduced by our former colleague, my good friend from New York, Senator CHUCK SCHUMER.

I was pleased to introduce the House companion to this legislation, HR 5053, which passed the House unanimously on October 6th of this year.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. SWEENEY, for his steadfast support of this legislation and his leadership on issues of importance to the law enforcement community.

And I also thank Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings for his steadfast support for the entire Finn family.

Mr. Speaker, John Francis Finn was born in Port Jefferson on Long Island. He was the son of Bill and Mary Finn, and he was a great brother to Bill, Michael, Mary and Rose. He

graduated from Smithtown High School, also on Long Island, and the University of Albany.

He joined the Albany Police Department on January 31, 1991. He had a 13-year career with the Albany Police Department with many diverse assignments. He completed them all with exemplary commitment, dedication, and compassion.

He was named a detective in the juvenile unit in 1993, promoted to sergeant in 1996, and promoted to lieutenant in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, on December 23, 2003, Lt. Finn responded to an armed robbery at a convenience store. Although he was wearing a protective vest, the suspect, armed with a semiautomatic weapon, struck Lt. Finn three times in the lower abdomen and leg.

Over the next few weeks, John underwent numerous surgeries and received exceptional care at the Albany Medical Center.

He passed away 51 days later, on February 12th of this year, becoming the ninth member of the Albany Police Department to be killed in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, over 5,000 officers and mourners from around the northeastern United States attended the memorial service in February at the Pepsi Arena in Albany. The service recalled John's distinguished career and life of service and sacrifice. He had received two lifesaving awards from the Albany Police Department.

In 2000, the Kiwanis Club named him Officer of the Year, and the Albany County Youth Recognition Awards have been renamed in honor of Lt. Finn.

Governor Pataki named Lt. Finn Police Officer of the Year in 2003 and presented that award to Lt. Finn's wife, Maura McNulty-Finn, and to his two daughters, Clara and Molly.

Maura was the love of his life, and Clara and Molly were his pride and joy. He brought his daughters to work with him when he volunteered, as he frequently did.

He was also instrumental in creating the Children and Family Services Unit in the Albany Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, at John's memorial service, I quoted scripture in saying, "No greater love can one man have than that he lay down his life for his friends." That is what John Finn did.

At this particular time, when we have many service personnel serving overseas, we are mindful of their sacrifice. We remember their service on a daily basis, as well we should.

We should always remember that had it not been for all the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military, the rest of us would not have the privilege of going around bragging, as I often do, about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the Earth. Freedom is not free. We paid a tremendous price for it.

I think we sometimes neglect to remember the sacrifices made by those protecting the homeland, who put themselves at risk every single day, just like John Finn did on December 23, 2003, when he gave his life for his friends.

So I am honored to be here today, Mr. Speaker, to recall John's life of service and sacrifice, to pay this small tribute to him, and to do what I know he would really like—to thank all police officers across the Nation who put their lives on the line for us every single day.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.